Concept for future generation coaches to protect the health of commuters

2720. SHRI ANANT RAM JAISWAL:
PROF. SAURIN BHATTACHARYA:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the proposal of an enterpreneur, who has developed concept for future generation coaches to protect the health of commuters in metropolitan cities;

(b) what is the feasibility of these coaches and whether it would be economical as compared to the other means of transport; and

(c) what are the details of these concepts and the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) The Government is not aware of any such proposal.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Conservation of Lakes and Wetlands

2721. SHRIMATI ILA PANDA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are formulating a national plan to conserve lakes and wetlands in the country;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether any study has been conducted on the lakes which are most polluted and subject to environmental degradation; and

(d) whether Chilka lake is there in the Priority of the Ministry for undertaking catchment area treatment, desittation and weed and beauty of the lake?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b). A National Lake Conservation Plan has been formulated for conservation of lakes with particular emphasis on urban water-bodies. The activities under this Programme include formulation of perspective plans for conservation, prevention and control of pollution, catchment area treatment, desilting and weed control and other activities depending upon location specific conditions, So far, 21 lakhs have been identified under this Programme.

A National Committee on Wetlands, Mangroves and Coral Reefs has been constituted to advise the Government on policy guidelines, preparation of action plans and research aspects for conservation of wetlands in the country.

(c) Studies have been conducted on lakes which face severe problems of pollution and environmental degradation.

(d) Chilka Lake is one of the Wetlands selected for conservation and management under the Wetlands Programme. So far, an amount of Rs. 112 lakhs has been released to the State Government for catchment area treatment, habitat improvement, generating awareness etc.

Violation of Forest Conservation Act

2722. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Council openly violated the Forest Conservation Act by destroying forest reserves in the core area of the Senchel Wildlife Sanctuary late in October in the name of development;

(b) whether it is a fact that the ecosystem in this high hill-game sanctuary is very fragile; and

(c) if so, what steps Government intend to take to prevent further violations of the Forest Conservation Act and depredations of the fragile

ecosystem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Non-forestry works were reported to have been carried out in Senchel Wildlife Sanctuary by Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Council in alleged Violation of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) State Government has been requested to ensure immediate stopping of all works allegedly being carried out in violation of the Act.

Reserve Forest Canal in Lonak Valley Sikkim

2723. SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH: SHRI SARADA MOHANTY:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that 11000 acres of Reserve Forest Land in Lonak Valley at Mungothang in Sikkim-Tibbet Border in North-Sikkim has been illegally and mischeveously recorded as private holdings in 1990-91 as per survey conducted by the Government of Sikkim despite the objections raised by the State Forest Department while the Sikkim Forest Toposheet map is approved by the Surveyor General of India and also by both Government of India and as well as Government of Sikkim;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that as per 1952, 1976-78, 1981 Survey map records the land in question is a Reserved forest land;

(c) what steps or precautionary measures are being taken by Government to curb such malpractices of false maps/ survey records being prepared and transfer the forest land to private persons; and

(d) what steps Government have contemplated in the above said matter in North Sikkim?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Wild-life-cum-bird sanctuary at Asola, Delhi

2724. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that wild-life-cum-bird sanctuary has been coming up at Asola in the Mehrauli area, Delhi;

(b) if so what are the details of the said project; the money spent so far on this project;

(c) whether Government's attention has been drawn into a news item with photographs on this project which appeared in The Statesman of 25.11.1993; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A decision to set up a wildlife Sanctuary in the southern ridge of Delhi was taken in 1986. So far an area of 6873 acres has been notified under Section 18 of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972. Since 1986, an amount of Rs. 482.76 lakhs has been spend for the development works of the Sanctuary. Out of this a boundary wall of 45 km. length, 2 tube wells with pump houses, 3 chowkidar huts and a few check dams, water storage tanks and shallow ponds have been constructed, besides an administrative block which is under construction.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) It is reported by the Deputy Conservator of Forests of the Government of National Capital